

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 22

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 79

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 22—Relative to the aircraft carrier Midway.

[Filed with Secretary of State July 24, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 22, Kaloogian. Aircraft carrier Midway.

This measure would request the President, the Congress, and the Department of Defense to support the efforts of the citizens of the State of California and the County of San Diego to acquire the United States Navy aircraft carrier Midway for a regional museum and an educational and entertainment complex.

WHEREAS, San Diego has a lengthy history associated with the United States Navy and Naval Air Forces, and San Diego was shaped by the birth of aviation technology and is proudly and inextricably linked to the military's presence; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of the aircraft carrier Midway would preserve a vital part of United States military history and its establishment as a museum would be a fitting memorial to San Diego's contributions to victory in World War II; and

WHEREAS, The carrier museum would add excitement to the maritime ambience of the cruise ship center, Mission Bay, Seaport Village, the shipyards, and harbor islands; and

WHEREAS, The carrier museum would be an attraction to both domestic and foreign tourists, thereby enhancing the global competitive position of the nearby convention center; and

WHEREAS, The added attraction of a carrier museum would result in longer tourist stays, with consequent increases in retail sales, hotel and motel occupancy, and restaurant patronage, resulting in higher sales and transient occupancy tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, The projected number of annual visitors to the carrier museum would exceed 700,000, bringing at least fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in additional revenues into the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, A carrier museum could be used as an ongoing exposition to showcase San Diego's leadership in aerospace and defense technology, to develop educational programs for schoolage children, and to provide entertainment attractions based on naval aviation history; and

WHEREAS, The presence of a military museum in San Diego would promote positive community relations between the citizens and the military; and

WHEREAS, The aircraft carrier Midway has been recently decommissioned and is in good structural condition, and will soon be coming up for sale as military surplus; and

WHEREAS, A group of like-minded San Diego citizens have established a nonprofit corporation and a committee to pursue the acquisition of the aircraft carrier Midway; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That in order to enhance the public's awareness of the contributions of the citizens of the State of California and the County of San Diego to military preparedness and, in particular, naval aviation history, and to enhance the region's economy by increasing tourism and creating new employment opportunities, the Legislature of the State of California endorses the efforts to acquire the aircraft carrier Midway as a permanent museum, educational, and entertainment complex to be located in San Diego Bay; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests the President and Congress of the United States, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Department of Defense, to support the efforts of the citizens of the State of California and the County of San Diego to acquire the aircraft carrier Midway; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

